

## To the LYME REGIS BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough during the year 1915.

**Area.**—1237 acres.

**Population.**—"Estimated civil population, 1915, Lyme Regis M.B., 2238."—General Register Office, Somerset House, W.C.

*Report of Borough Observer.*—Rainfall for the year, 37.97 inches. That for 1914 was 40.13 inches.

**Temperature.**—The mean readings for the year were: Maximum, 56.7; Minimum, 43.1; Dry Bulb, 52.0; Wet Bulb, 48.0; Dew Point, 45.0; Relative Humidity, 70%; Relative Force of Aqueous Vapour, .310 inches.

**Water Supply.**—From the greensand in the hills N.E. and N.W. of the town. The springs from N.E. were added to the town supply from Colway in 1896, and are conveyed in 4-in. iron pipes to the Cobb. The water from this source is softer (5 or 6 degrees) than the Colway Spring and has a more corroding action on the iron pipes. This action of causing the pipes to rust greatly diminished the bore of the pipes and consequently the flow of water through them. As complaints were made because of the scanty supply of water, especially at the higher levels, a water engineer was consulted who visited the town in August and made a report upon the whole water supply. The recommendations made for the rusty pipes were: (1) Scraping the pipes. (2) Chemical treatment of the water at the source. Also a pumping scheme for supplying high levels not reached by our present springs. The first scheme was adopted, and the pipes scraped in the autumn. This has greatly improved the flow of water, but for some time after the water was very much discoloured by rust. The pumping scheme was deferred.

The private water supply, a small dipping spring, which supplied T. Frost's cottage on Charmouth Road was being contaminated by surface water through a defective culvert; the culvert was repaired and condition of water much improved.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—In November last a most serious defect was found in the large sewer in Monmouth Street. This sewer extends from the top of Church Street to the river in Coombe Street, where it joins the main in bed of river near Electric Light Station. It is a large stone sewer, and prior to 1903 discharged directly into the river. In the years 1906, 1908 and 1909 it was repaired in three sections by ware pipes being laid in concrete, and various house drains connected to these pipes.

As a complaint of drain defect was received from 9 Monmouth Street, under which house this sewer passes, the sewer was opened and it was then found that the connections of house drains to the pipes in the bottom of sewer have been most disgracefully made, in fact in places there was no connections at all, but sewerage from small drains discharged not into the sewer pipes but around them. Lest there should be any more of these faulty connections remaining in this sewer, I would strongly advise that it be tested in sections, and any defects found be made good; or if this is found to be impracticable that a complete new sewer be laid.

**Closet Accommodation.**—The general type is the W.C., for in some 300 cottages there were only 12 which were not connected to the sewerage of the town, and about 230 closets are fitted with flush tanks. At three cottages at East Cliff, pail (ash) closets were substituted for W.C. because of coast erosion destroying drains.

**Scavenging.**—This is done by Corporation carts and men three times weekly in the town and twice in outside districts. The refuse is deposited in a field near the edge of the cliff about half a mile to the E. of the town. There are no houses within a quarter of a mile of this tipping ground. We have no destructor. In June, July and August carbolic powder was used for dusting on refuse and receptacles when collecting from houses before placing it into dust carts.







**Sanitary Inspector's Statement.**—Number of inspections, 120 ; Informal notices, 30, complied with, 30 ; Statutory notices, 16, complied with, 12.

**Premises Controlled by Byelaws.**—The Common Lodging-house is always found in excellent order and has satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

There are no cellar dwellings nor offensive trades.

There is one van dwelling which is well managed.

**Schools.**—There are two buildings, one for boys and girls built in 1893, and another for infants, of an earlier date. The sanitary conditions of both buildings are good, the closets and urinals have an automatic flushing apparatus. Town water is supplied.

**Milk Supply.**—This is good and wholesome ; it is delivered into the town twice daily. About half the supply comes from the adjoining village of Uplyme. The milk is retailed by the Cowkeepers themselves.

**Dairies and Cowsheds.**—There are 8 Cowkeepers, who retail milk, on the Register, and 7 cowsheds in the town. Four of the cowsheds are of recent date and are good buildings. All are managed satisfactorily.

**Slaughter-houses.**—There are three registered and licensed. They are all well kept, but two of them are very badly situated, being much too near dwelling-houses.

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**—Samples of the following were taken :—Butter, 2 ; Cream, 1 ; Cheese, 1 ; Coffee, 1 ; Pepper, 1 ; Flour, 1 ; Ground Linseed, 1 ; Lard, 1 ; Gregory's Powder, 1 ; Eucalyptus Oil, 1.

**Housing.**—At the present time our cottage accommodation is sufficient, and there is little or no overcrowding. Very little building has been done during the year, chiefly owing to the war.

One new house was built in the Woodmead Road.

**Action under H. & T. P. Act, 1909, Sec. 17.**—A closing order was made for two cottages at Jericho, close to the river, but the owner afterwards repaired them and rendered them fit for habitation, so the closing order was withdrawn.

**Action under Sec. 15 (Repairs).**—During the year 32 cottages were inspected and the following defects were noted :—1 reported overcrowded, found not to be so ; 9 defective roofs, repaired ; 9 general defects, 6 repaired ; 8 defective drains, repaired ; 5 in order.

**Workshops and Workplaces.**—There are three factories and nine workshops on the Register. The workshops are very small ones, the largest only employing 12 persons. All were found to be well managed. No home work is done from any factory or workshop.

The Cement Works closed down in August.

**Sanitary Administration.**—M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector, who is also Borough Surveyor.

**Local and Adoptive Acts.**—Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, part 3. Ditto, 1907, part 8.

**Chemical Work.**—This is done by the County Analyst.

**Bacteriological Work.**—The Council contracts with the Clinical Research Association for this work, and provides free examinations for poor patients. Specimens examined, several for Diphtheria.







**Infectious Diseases.**—There were 33 notifications of infectious diseases, viz. :—Diphtheria, 18 ; Scarlet Fever, 5 ; Measles, 3 ; Erysipelas, 4 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 ; Cerebrospinal Meningitis, 1 ; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1. Six deaths were caused by infectious diseases—Diphtheria, 4 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 ; Cerebrospinal Meningitis, 1.

**Diphtheria.**—There were four cases of this disease in the last quarter of 1914. In the first quarter of this year we had six cases, in the second and third quarters four cases, in the last quarter eight cases. It was not considered necessary to close the Schools. There were four deaths.

Our milk supply was not suspected as all the milksellers supplied milk to the infected houses.

The want of an Isolation Hospital was badly felt, as in the smaller cottages it was impossible to properly isolate the infected persons.

Drainage defects were found in some of the infected houses, which were repaired.

**Scarlet Fever.**—One case was in the town and four at St. Albans. All occurred in November. There were no deaths.

**Cerebrospinal Meningitis.**—A case of this disease occurred early in June : a female aged 26 years. This patient died on the eighth day of the illness. The close contacts were isolated as well as possible for three weeks. Sprays were used for throat and nose. All rooms in the infected house were fumigated, and there was no spread of the disease. The origin of the disease could not be traced.

The method of disinfection is by Formalin (vap. lamps) fumigation.

**Isolation Hospital.**—There is no isolation accommodation except the two rooms at the Cobb buildings, which are retained for cases of cholera and plague which might be brought into the harbour.

A temporary provision has recently been made with the Bridport Rural District Council to receive infectious cases, when there are vacant beds.

**Tuberculosis.**—One case was notified during the year. Sanatorium treatment did not prevent the case ending fatally.

**Prevention of Infant Mortality.**—The Notification of Births Act was adopted by the Council in 1914.

<b>Vital Statistics.</b> —Population	...	2,238.
Birth Rate	(per 1000 inhabitants) ...	18.3.
General Death Rate	... ..	16.5.
Nett	... ..	17.4.
Zymotic	... ..	2.6.
Infant Mortality, deaths under 1 yr. per 1000 births	...	142.8.
Number of Inhabited Houses (approximately)	...	545.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. SPURR, M.O.H.

June 2nd, 1916.







## To The LYME REGIS BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Lyme Regis during the year 1921.

### 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 1,237.  
Population (1921) 22,80.  
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) 450 approx.  
" " families or separate occupiers 500 approx.  
Rateable Value £12,060.  
Sum represented by a penny rate £45.

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

**Births.**—Legitimate 41, 23 males and 18 females; Illegitimate 3, 3 females. Birth-rate (R.G. 192.

**Deaths.**—32, 17 males and 15 females. Death-rate (R.G.), 14.03. Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth, 0. Death of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—Legitimate, 0; Illegitimate, 0; Total, 0. Deaths from Measles (all ages), 0; Whooping Cough (all ages), 0; Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age), 0.

### 3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Diphtheria, 11 notified; 8 to Isolation Hospital; total deaths, 0. Scarlet Fever, 1 notified; 0 to Isolation Hospital; total deaths, 0. Enteric Fever, 0. Puerperal Fever, 0. Pneumonia, 1 notified; 0 to Isolation Hospital; total deaths, 0. Erysipelas, 1 notified; 0 to Isolation Hospital; total deaths, 0. Tuberculosis: (a) Pulmonary, 3 males, 0 females notified; 0 to Isolation Hospital; total deaths, 2, ages 27 and 32. (b) non-pulmonary, 0 Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 0.

### 5. SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, &c., AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

There is a Cottage Hospital (7 beds) in the town which is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. A nurse in this Hospital is available for general nursing in the district.

**Midwives.**—Two certified midwives, subsidised by the County Council, reside in the town and attend maternity cases. One midwife also acts as Health Visitor for an area which includes Lyme Regis, Charmouth, Whitechurch Canonicorum, and Monkton Wyld.

**Maternity & Child Welfare Centre (Consultation).**—A centre was formed in 1918 with about 20 members. The two midwives attend once a week and a member of the County Council Medical Staff once a month.

**Hospital for Infectious diseases.**—A joint area for this purpose was formed in 1917 by the Urban Districts of Bridport, and Lyme Regis and the Rural District of Beaminster. The Hospital is situated at Bridport and has 20 beds. A motor ambulance is kept at the Hospital for removing infectious cases.

### 6. LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out for the Council by the Clinical Research Association, by contract. Diphtheria antitoxin is provided gratis in necessitous cases.

**Adoptive Acts.**—Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, part 3. P.H.A. Act 1907, parts 3, 4 and 5.







## 7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

**Sanitary Inspector's Statement.**—Number of inspections, 206; Defective premises, 58; Informal notices served, 43; complied with, 43; statutory notices served, 15; complied with, 15.

There are four bakehouses in the town which are well kept.

There are three registered slaughter-houses in the town, on inspection these are found well managed.

There are nine registered cow keepers with nine dairies and eight cow sheds, all of these are kept in good order.

**Sale of Food and Drugs Act.**—Forty four samples were taken in this district during the year for analysis by the County Council. Adulterated samples, none.

## 8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector, both part-time officers. Half the salary of each officer is contributed by Exchequer grants.

## 9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—(a) total, 2; (b) as part of a municipal housing scheme, 0.

**1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.**—Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 100; (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, 100; (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 2; (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, 28.

**2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.**—Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers, 15.

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers.—

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919. (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 15; (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—(a) by owners, 15; (b) by Local Authority in default of owners, 0.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts, nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders, 2;

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made, 2;

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit, 1;

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, 0;

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, 0.

**Port Sanitary Authority.**—No ships entered the harbour during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. SPURR,

M.O.H.



